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The President's Message.

President Wilson's message to Congress, not delivered in person, but in the former style of presentation, is one of the briefest of his addresses to that body. It is notable in that it makes no mention directly of the subject of paramount interest, that of peace-making and league endorsement, though it may be read in interpretation with a bearing upon that theme. The President takes his text from the sentence of Abraham Lincoln: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it." The faith, he says, was the force that prevailed over Germany, and was the spirit in which our men went into the fields and upon the sea to make sure of victory. In the keeping of that faith, says the President, it is the duty of the United States to insure that democracy will meet its final test. This country must offer within its own borders an example of "the will and power of democracy to make and enforce laws which are unquestionably just and which are equal in their administration."

In practical matters the President points to certain needs to aid in the restoration of the country from the disturbing and disastrous effects of the war. One of these is a budget system, which he hopes will be provided by legislation at this session in a form to meet the objections on constitutional grounds raised against preceding legislation.

In his report on the financial condition of the country the President notes the fact that within the next two and a half years seven and a half billions of war indebtedness will mature, and the fiscal program of the government must be determined with reference to these maturities. There must be rigid economy, vigorous salvage operations and adequate revenues from taxation to realize a surplus of current receipts over expenditures to be applied to the floating debt. Revision of the tax laws is an urgent necessity. Simplification is required to save the taxpayer inconvenience and expense and to make his liability more certain and definite.

A sympathetic note is struck in a paragraph dealing with the problem of providing adequate facilities for the care and treatment of former members of the military and naval forces who are sick or disabled as a result of their participation in the war. The President indicates that these men, who cannot be rewarded in money, must be given the most ample provision for their medical care as well as their vocational training and placement.

Two specific recommendations take the message from the range of routine. One is that the United States make a loan to Armenia under the supervision of a commission or a commissioner. The other is that the people of the Philippines, having fulfilled the conditions set by Congress, should now be granted their independence.

There is in the message a note of patient hopefulness and of faith. It avoids points of contention and lays before Congress a statement of the national situation in terms that command attention.

Kitchener had an aversion to newspaper writers. Had he lived longer he would have considered them highly preferable to a few of the book writers.

In considering membership in the league of nations, Germany is careful to take observations as to whether there is likely to be a rough initiation.

A purchaser from a bootlegger is supposed to be grateful if he gets quia alcohol instead of wood alcohol.

Starvation in Shantung offers Japanese philanthropy an opportunity to distinguish itself.

The Careful Man.

One of the slogans on the front of the street cars in this city as a feature of "No Accident Week" is particularly worthy of stress and attention: "The best safety device is a careful man." This means a careful man—or woman—driving a vehicle or walking. It means care in straightaway running or turning corners, care to observe the rules which have been devised for the protection of everybody, care to show consideration for others. A careful man will not go to the limit of what the rules permit, but will always have a margin of safety. He will recognize the fact that the streets are congested and always potentially dangerous. The careful driver will know that there are people abroad who deserve the name of jay walkers, and govern himself to reduce to a minimum the risk of hitting them. The careful walker, will realize that he can stop or start in the street quicker than an automobile, and so regulate his movements that he will not assume too great a risk on the presumption of guaranteed right of way at crossings. A careful man will not walk across the street without knowing what is coming. He will never walk crookedly without assuming a full responsibility for his course. He will recognize that a street car cannot turn off its tracks and that an automobile has in the crowded part of town a very

narrow roadway with many obstructions alongside.

A careful man will be a considerate man, whether he rides or whether he walks. If he rides he will realize that there are more people walking than riding. If he walks he will realize that those who wheel have many things to watch while they drive, and that he is only one item in the multitude. In short, the careful man will ward himself and others from danger, even though it may cost him a little loss of time. He will adopt as his motto, "It is better to be safe than sorry."

The New Order and the Country.

Two things, developed yesterday, should give heart and hope to the country.

(1) The new order will establish, and endeavor to maintain, good working relations between the President and the Congress. Mr. Harding's address in the Senate chamber—intended for the whole American people—is wholesome in tone and purpose, and certain to bear fruit. It was well received by those who heard it. It will be responded to favorably by those whose legislative commissions begin to run March 4.

(2) The new order will function as soon as possible—within a fortnight—after coming into being. The Sixty-seventh Congress is to meet in special session and at once tackle the mandate of last month. It will be led in both branches by men of large and long legislative experience, who will take up their work with thorough knowledge of the details. They enjoy public confidence. They deserve the confidence of the details. They are conscious of the magnitude of their task, and of what is expected of them. Men of their class and capacity have never been inspired more than these men should, and probably will be.

Now what greater assurance need could—the people receive as to benefits derivable from our institutions than this? The President, after full consultations with representative men of all parties, will make his recommendations, and a competent and sympathetic Congress will consider and pass upon them. There will be no delay except that imposed by the Constitution. An earlier start would if it could be made. But the wheels cannot be set to turning sooner than March. After that we shall get results, and such as our conditions demand.

The Session and the Work.

As sentiment in both parties on Capitol Hill is in favor of the routine and as little else as possible this winter, and as the routine is unusually important and difficult, the sooner Congress buckles to the work and the more steadily and industriously sticks to it the better.

Supply bills are sometimes maneuvered for trading purposes. Some are held back in the stages of preparation. Others when taken up in the open chambers are debated with studied leisureliness. Still others are delayed in conference. Then comes a rush as the session draws to the close, and differences in the give-and-take fashion are hurriedly adjusted, or a jam results and some of the bills fall of passage.

There ought to be no jam next March. Every item in every bill should be examined on its merits, and every bill passed before the clock points to noon on adjournment day.

The Sixty-seventh Congress will tackle the mandate issued at the polls last month. The republicans will take complete control. Mr. Harding will be in the White House with the biggest plurality behind him ever cast for a presidential candidate, while the Senate will show a substantial republican majority and the House a record majority of republican votes. Together, the executive and the legislators, will have their hands full, and should not be forced to clean up after the Congress now sitting. There is time enough, though none to spare, for the work.

No doubt President-elect Harding's willingness to accept advice has brought him enough daily mail to consume several hours in the reading.

A Chicago man made his will on a phonograph record. A jazz funeral march should appear on the other side of the disc.

In spite of various criticisms the United States Senate continues to be a center of respectful interest.

Greek politics is neither as exciting nor as dignified as it was a great many centuries ago.

An Adriatic Compromise.

It begins to look as though D'Annunzio, after thundering defiance to the government at Rome, had concluded that discretion is the better part of valor after all and that it is preferable to compromise on something less than to seek all and lose all. The situation at Fiume has eased somewhat as negotiations have progressed for an adjustment by which D'Annunzio, it is reported, will yield certain of the islands in accordance with the terms of the treaty of Rapallo, while Italy will recognize the regency of Quarnaro.

It is of little moment whether the Italian government or D'Annunzio's independent organization controls in the area denied Yugoslavia in the Adriatic zone. That is a matter between Italy and D'Annunzio, and the only point of issue between them relates to the matter of "self-determination" for the people of the Dalmatian coast, whom D'Annunzio claims as dominant, while the Yugoslavs claim them as dominantly of their nationality.

A war between Italy and D'Annunzio would be in the last degree foolish and wasteful of energies that Italy can ill afford to risk. It could, of course, only result in one way, in the subjection of D'Annunzio and the establishment of Italian authority throughout the area given to that country under the terms of the treaty of Rapallo. If a compromise is effected D'Annunzio will remain established at Fiume, but with a definite responsibility to the government at Rome, and it is to be believed that in

the course of a short time there will be no practical difference between Rome and the Adriatic city in the matter of administration. This is an outcome devoutly to be wished by all friends of Italy.

The Virginia Senatorship.

A rousing senatorial campaign in Virginia is assured. Mr. Swanson aspires to succeed himself. Gov. Davis has announced himself, and former Gov. Montague is turning the matter over in his mind. All are strong men. Mr. Swanson and Mr. Montague are orators of power. Gov. Davis has made reputation in office, and came to the place by a marked demonstration of popular favor.

Virginia has been fortunate in her senators for years. John S. Barbour was a very competent man, with a business equipment. He rendered the state notable service. John W. Daniel was a lawyer and an orator of a high class, and died in harness. Thomas S. Martin served for a quarter century, led his party in the Senate, and exercised great influence in the chamber. His successor, Carter Glass, has in the briefest period taken good rank, and promises to become one of the Senate's most useful members.

Mr. Swanson went from the House to the governorship of Virginia, and then came from the governorship to the Senate. He was a trained man, therefore, when elected to his present office, and has shown his training there. His committee assignments are good, and in the debates of the chamber he has taken a prominent part. While his health of late has not been robust, he announces a purpose to make a thorough campaign; and that is notice to his competitors that they must do their utmost.

The situation throughout the country is such that all the states should be represented in both houses of Congress by the best men available.

A Beggar by Day.

Score another for the old dictum that truth is stranger than fiction! This time the demonstration comes from San Francisco, where a woman has sued for annulment of marriage on the ground that her husband, who had pretended to her to be the son of a wealthy New Yorker, was in reality a beggar who sought alms during the day as a deaf mute and at night played the part of a rich man. In the annals of beggary there are many cases of dual roles and real wealth. This chap, it would seem, was not particularly prosperous, at least not enough so to put him beyond the range of temptation of stealing from his wife. He "lifted" from her room at a hotel, after she had begun proceedings against him, a camera and other pawnable articles. It seems that Van d'Loys was not very clever at his work. He was careless about his apertures of trade. His wife, exercising the age-long privilege of woman-kind, in going through his pockets on one occasion found some cards reading, "I am deaf and dumb. Alms, for pity's sake, alms!" One thinks of Hajj, the beggar, with his "Alms, for the love of Allah" and his comfortable home in which he was rearing a flower-like daughter, so fair that she was sought in single wifehood by the sultan in disguise. Van d'Loys—if that is his real name, which is doubtful—should have had a clearing house between his "pitch" and his home.

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SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

The Nickel.
A nickel to the man I threw
Who holds the peanut sale.
His paper sack held but a few,
And most of those were stale.
Upon a street car skipper next
I tried a nickel bright.
It left him very much perplexed
And almost impolite.
Into the phone at a hotel
I sought to make it chime.
The words which on my hearing fell
Were these: "Drop in a dime."
Oh, Nickel of my boyhood day
Your injun did not wear.
His feathers drooped in dismay.
No buffalo was there.
Poor Lo—likewise Poor Buffalo.
Unto tradition linked,
Are bidding the poor Nickel go
With them, and be extinct.

Imperative.

"I understand that women will wear longer dresses this winter."
"They will have to," replied Miss Cayenne. "In some extreme instances it is that or nothing."

Cactus Joe says the only place a king is sure of much respect now is in a poker hand.

No Exception.

Old Santa Claus, like many another friend,
We cherish only while he lingers near.

A day of grateful greeting we extend
And then forget him for another year.

A Wavering Faith.

"You still have faith in the wisdom of the plain people?"
"I have," replied Senator Borah, "but I must admit my faith wavered a little when the returns looked as if the plain people had decided to put another man in my place."

Ready Repartee.

"You mustn't take up the telephone operator's precious moments asking her what time it is."
"I'd be afraid to ask her, anyhow. She might be in a merry mood and tell me it was time for another rate raise."



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